

SOUTHWESTER

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Community Council, Inc.
SERVING NEAR SOUTHWEST/SOUTHEAST



January 25 - February 15, 1995



John Brown, President, SWNA
WBCDC Annual Meeting

The Wiley Branton Community Development Corporation will hold its annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15 at St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street SW. (In case of a weather emergency, the meeting will be held the following Wednesday, February 22.)

The meeting will include a discussion of the CDC's recently prepared Strategic Plan. The plan was prepared by outside consultants, Joseph Howell and Madeline Petty.

The meeting will also see the election of new members of the Board of Directors and a vote on three changes to the Bylaws.

The Board of Directors is proposing that: (a) Neighborhood Planning Council #17 be dropped from the bylaws; (b) the requirements for a quorum for Board meetings be clarified; and, (c) the month for the annual meeting be changed to April.

Any one interested in running for the Board of Directors should contact Walter Brooks of the Nominations Committee, 554-4528.

Membership in the CDC is open to all residents of the near Southwest and Southeast (precinct 131) area, who are 18 or older, and who complete a membership application. There is no cost to membership.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

In observance of Black History Month, the National Archives has scheduled a number of public programs during the month of February. All programs are free and open to the public in the National Archives Building, Pennsylvania Avenue, between 7th and 9th Streets, N.W.

SWNA January Meeting

The Jan. Meeting will be on Monday, January 30th at 6:45 at the library. The speaker is from Councilman Evans's office and will give us the info on "What's up for City Services" - How the budget cuts will effect SW.

cont. page 2

SWNA's Christmas Party

by Charlotte Brooks &
John W. Brown [Pres. SWNA]

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly [SWNA] Christmas Party was held on Monday, December 19, 1994 at Phillips Restaurant on the waterfront. The collection of colorfully wrapped gifts beside the sign-in table epitomized the spirit of the evening. More than 75 gifts were collected and were given to neighborhood children at another party given by the Southwest Community House and to James Creek needy children through Phyllis Martin.

The party was sponsored by SWNA, our local civic association, which also sponsors the Summer Jobs program, Neighborhood Beautification, College Scholarship program, Educational and Cultural Programs, Political forums, and the Southwester Newspaper, to name just a few of its activities. The SWNA has existed continuously for more than 30 years, and has been a model for many D.C. Government programs, such as the Summer Jobs Initiative and the Waterfront Festival.

Phillips, provided the room and drinks, veggies, meat balls, chicken, and other hors d'oeuvres. SWNA brought other donated items to the party. When asked, the community responded beautifully. Creole Orleans donated their speciality, gumbo and rice and the Fish Market gave forty pounds of jumbo, steamed and spiced shrimp.

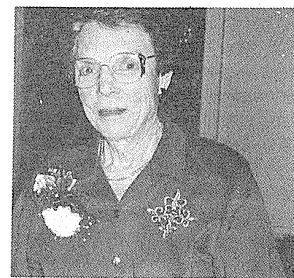
Approximately 100 Southwesters enjoyed the party, mingling with friends and neighbors, and listening to music provided by Paul Weiss and

his combo. Paul is a four time recipient of a SWNA Scholarship award. He majored in music at Catholic University. His group provided musical accompaniment as guests heartily sang "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

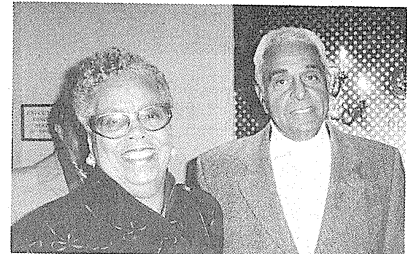
Assembly President John Brown welcomed all guests, including Col. and Mrs. Lullen [Commander of Fort McNair], and Mr. Earl Mitchell, Interim President of Southeastern University, as well as Frankie Coates-Crosby, also of the university, who spoke of their desires to participate more in S.W. community events. Other Southwest and city workers introduced included Charles Hargraves, ANC2D, Gottlieb Simon, chair of the Southwest Community House board, Lonnie and Barbara Murray, SWNA Treasurer and Scholarship Committee, and Peggy Jackson, Emma Ward, Beryl Rice, and Carole Early, all SWNA committee members who planned the party.

Mr. Brown also expressed deepest appreciation to Capt. Sunny White, and the Seafood Boat owners on the S.W. Waterfront for their donation, and to Ron Britt, of Creole Orleans Restaurant at 7th and Water Street, S.W. for the great gumbo.

Last year's Christmas Party was held at the Gangplank Restaurant, which also donated its party room. The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly applauds the wonderful spirit of cooperation which exists between the Waterfront businesses and the community.



Margaret Feldman, Vice President,



Charlotte & Walter Brooks, (Youth Activities Task Force)

ANC News

ANC 2D re-elected three of its four officers at its annual election meeting on January 9. Lorretta L. Reeves (SMD 2D05) was tapped to serve a second term as Chairperson. C.W. Hargrave (2D02) and Le Eckles (2D04) will continue as Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer, respectively. Filling the spot as Secretary is newly elected Commissioner Judith Jones (2D06). She takes over for Alphonso Coles who moved out of his district and did not run for re-election.

In other action at the January 9 meeting, the ANC heard from First District police officers; reviewed the Office of Planning's proposal for replacing the SW Urban Renewal Plan with zoning; and, authorized a change in its negotiations with the owners of the East Side over their ABC license renewal application.



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cont. from page 1

March is the month when the community holds elections for officers to SWNA and representatives from Single Member Districts. If anyone is interested in running for a specific office, please contact Lonnie Murray at 488-8257. There will be more information about the upcoming elections in the next issue.

In February SWNA will hold a special meeting for Black History Month. The meeting date is Sunday, February 26. It will be at 6:30 at St. Matthew's (222 M St.). Stay tuned for more info in the next issue.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Southwester is fortunate to be participating with Jefferson JHS in the Community Service Program. All ninth grade students in junior high school have to have twenty five volunteer hours working in the community. Two volunteers, Christopher Taylor and Carlena Solomon help *The Southwester* every Friday afternoon and conduct interviews with people in the community after school. Hopefully this will be a learning experience for them and they will learn the importance of giving to their community. Carlena lives on Half Street while Chris lives in another area of the city.

S.W. WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER 4751

By Alberta E. White
Chairman, Public Relations Committee

S.W. Waterfront AARP Chapter 4751 held its 'Xmas Luncheon at Pier 7 Restaurant on December 21, 1994.

Entertainment was provided by Jazz Singer, Dick Smith, during the luncheon, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Members brought gifts to be donated to EFEC (Efforts from Ex-Convicts) and given to underprivileged children of prisoners.

Special guest were Mrs. Grace Hall, AARP District 2 Director, who presents a plaque to our outgoing President, Emma Mitchell; and Charles Hargrave, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 2D02. A gift was presented to Ms. Mitchell by AARP member Norma Hunton.

Door prizes were given out and the luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Ms. Mitchell introduced the newly elected President, Mary Ann Bailer, and she introduced the elected officers for 1995. They are as follows:

Mary Ann Bailer-President
Dorothy Barnes-Vice President
Barbara Hawkins-Secretary
Thomas Hawkins-Treasurer

The Chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 12-2 p.m., at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 3rd & M Streets, S.W., September through June.

EDITOR & MANAGER

Carole Early
488-3355

STAFF

Jerry Blasenstien
C. W. Hargrave
Dale MacIver
Wallace Babington
Kate Mulligan

LAYOUT

Nathaniel Polster

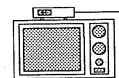
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR THE SOUTHWESTER

Quotations from persons who commented on the Wiley Branton Community Development Corporation (WBCDC) in our last two issues of the Southwester provides for the reader a narrowly focused and imbalance perception of this organization.

Some of the comments disregard the facts and the dedication and accountability of the Board Members are called into question.

As Chair of the Grants Committee I would like to publicly thank its members who met night and day to evaluate proposals, utilizing an Evaluation Criteria furnished by the Panel of Five of the Portals Estate and providing guidelines that were widely disseminated through newspapers, mailing lists and flyers.

The results of our reviews and the Board's approval were mailed and/or hand carried to meet the deadline set by the Portal of Five.

The results of the decisions by the Portal of Five (who met sporadically) were never received by the Grants Committee, and many phone calls to that question remained unanswered.

My personal thanks to the Grants Committee for their professional conduct, integrity and accountability: David Brewer, Walter H. Brooks, John Brown., Wallace N. Darius, Natana M. Dixon, Dana Winner, Phyllis Martin and Gottlieb L. Simon.

by Ethel James Williams

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by the reporter of the Portal Articles, Kate Mulligan.

I'm sorry that Ethel James Williams is unhappy with the story because she was very helpful to me when I was writing it. I have no doubt that she was extremely hard-working committee chair; she was very energetic in replying to my questions and gathering written information.

The headline for the story was "Portal Funds Go Unused." That, to me, is the critical point. Our community's loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars is not the fault of one committee, or even one organization. As C.W. Hargrave, one of WBCD's critics, said, "Keep in mind that if you don't apply for the funds, you can't complain about not getting them."

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CALENDAR (JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1995)

- January 26... NARFE Chapter
Thursday 2052, SW Branch Library, Wesley Place and K Streets, S.W., 1:30 p.m.
- January 26... Mayor's hearing on the
Thursday 1996 D.C. Public School Budget, John Wilson Building, 5th Floor, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., 6:00 p.m.
- January 30... Metrobus public
Monday hearings on fare increases, Jackson Graham Building, 600 5th Street, N.W., 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- January 30... Southwest
Monday Neighborhood Assembly, SW Branch Library, 7:00 p.m.
- February 7... First District
Tuesday Citizens Advisory Council, 1D Headquarters, 415 4th Street, S.W., 7:30 p.m.
- February 13... Advisory
Monday Neighborhood Commission 2D, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4th and I Streets, S.W., 7:30 p.m.
- February 15... Southwest AARP
Wednesday Chapter 4751, St. Matthew's Church, 222 M Street, S.W., 12:00 noon.
- February 15... Wiley Branton CDC
Wednesday Annual Meeting, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street, S.W., 7:30 p.m.
- February 22... WPGF Forum
Wednesday Education Reform: Here to Stay, DAV Building, 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., 6:00 p.m.
- February 23... NARFE Chapter
Thursday 2052, SW Branch Library, 1:30 p.m.
- February 26... SWNA Black History
Sunday Program, St. Matthew's Church, 2:00 p.m.

[Please submit community calendar items to C.W. Hargrave, 202-554-8284]

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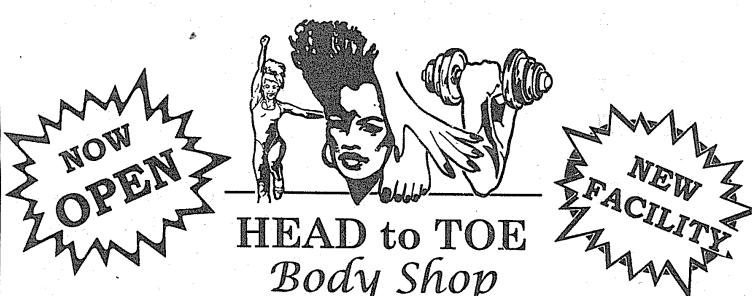
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SOUTHWEST LIBRARY HOSTS KWANZAA CELEBRATION

by Thelma D. Jones

The Southwest Branch Library recently hosted a well-attended Kwanzaa celebration, galvanizing support from various groups both within Southwest and from other communities. Kwanzaa, a Swahili word which means 'first', is an African American holiday that honors Black people and their history. The celebration was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a renowned professor of African American life who was from Maryland's Eastern Shore. This spirited and cultural reunion, which is recognized December 26-January 1, celebrates the fruits of African American labor during the past year.

Branch Librarian Carolyn Burgess-McCormick warmly welcomed the group and Children's Librarian Khafre K. Abif, who emceed the program, followed with the libation (a call for the blessing of ancestors through the sprinkling of water). The program consisted of poetic presentations by Adult Services Librarian Joyce Fletcher and choral renditions by Circulation Desk Supervisor Willetta Carter and Building Engineer Darrell Grays. Guest speaker Carroll R. Gibbs enlightened the audience by discussing the history and the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Gibbs also expressed his concern about the commercialization of the Kwanzaa holiday and the 'growing trend to exploit the real meaning of Kwanzaa.' Speaking about his organized efforts to help prevent the exploitation of Kwanzaa, he encouraged the audience to help preserve its integrity by not losing sight of the true meaning of the event.

The celebration resumed with the lighting ceremony which was positioned near the horn of plenty, encouraging volunteers from the audience to participate. Gibbs & Abif added to the merriment of the event by continuously encouraging audience participation throughout the program, including reciting various readings.

One of the highlights of the spirited celebration included several rousing renditions by the

SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S INTERIM PRESIDENT

On December 7, 1994, the Board of Trustees installed Earl M. Mitchell as Interim president of Southeastern University with full authority to act on behalf of the University and its board. As he takes over the reins as interim president, Mitchell exhorted his colleagues in the university to "Make a difference" and to act on the board's desire to join him in his greatest challenge - to continue a tradition of excellence at Southeastern.

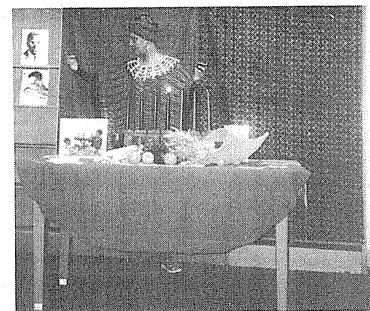
Mitchell, recognized for his outstanding achievements, including being named to Who's Who in Law Enforcement, 1990 is a motivator and exhibits extreme enthusiasm in carrying out the bold and innovative programs at the university. "Meeting the needs of students in a multicultural setting and involving the community in the institution's programs are challenges to which I look forward," said Mitchell.

Page 4

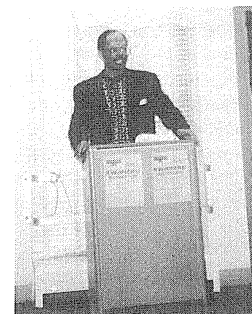
Drums of West Africa in America from Pittsburgh (Abif's hometown). The group performed Yoruba ceremonial music in the Orisa tradition and included Eric J. Rucker, Cathlee Bailey, Jasmine Bailey, David Rocke, and Talib Hallie. Another highlight of the program included a group of drummers and dancers, featuring Ateya and Vincent Ball, a sister/brother act. Ateya, a resident of Channel Square, is a Southwest Scholarship recipient majoring in English at Howard University. Their traditional dance revealed a story about the celebration of young children going into adulthood. With the roaring sounds of the drummers, the talented dancers, and the ethnic attire, one almost felt for a moment that parts of "Roots" were being relived, especially when the audience was invited to join the dancers and "dance to the beat of the drums." At the end of the celebration, everyone was invited to feast on the delicious spread of food.

Tony Kroll, Executive Director, Push Literacy Action Now (Plan, Inc.) gave a package of books and a goodie to each child. Acknowledgements were given to the Southwest Youth Activities Task Force and River Park's Southwest Affairs Committee for their financial support, and to the Friends and Jr. Friends of the Southwest Library, including Betty Brown, Margaret Feldman, Dale MacIver, Ruth Otts, Beryl Rice, and Nina Squires.

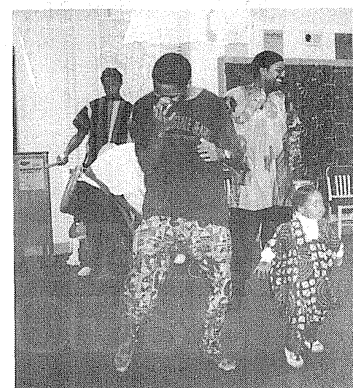
Congratulations to the Southwest Library for sharing the spirit of Kwanzaa with us and demonstrating the various things needed to celebrate the holiday in a manner that encouraged participation from a diverse group of people.



Head Librarian, Carolyn McCormick inviting a volunteer to join in the lighting ceremony

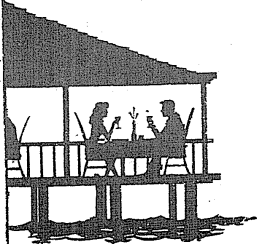


Guest speaker, Carroll R. Gibbs



Drums of West Africa in America

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T & G Student

by Judith Jones

Three weeks ago, a young student transferred to Amidon Elementary School from out-of-state. The student's name is Beth Christin Mikel and she is in the fifth grade. She was invited to participate in UDC's Talented and Gifted Computer Science Program.

We want to wish her classmates who are in this special program our best and say "congratulations - we are proud of you." We hope that Beth will keep us informed about the class.

Shorter Hours At Libraries

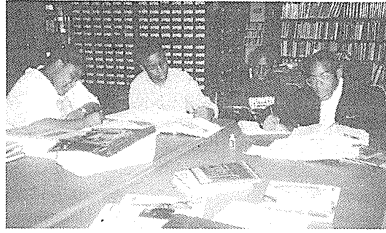
Good news on the public library front ! Plans for closing down six public libraries in Washington, D.C., have been changed. No libraries will be closed down, but all libraries will have shorter hours and be closed on ten Fridays on which library employees will be on furlough without pay because of the District government's money shortage.

Southwest Branch Library head librarian Carolyn McCormick issued this statement:

"We've been saved from closure of the designated branches. However, the libraries will have a 40 hour work week to service the public, with only one late night per week. The closings for furlough days will take place on Fridays. We will have furloughs as of April 1, 1995. At this time there will only be 10 furlough days."

KEEP SAVING YOUR GIANT AND SAFEWAY TAPES - BRING THEM TO THE LIBRARY & THE SWNA WILL SAVE THEM FOR SW SCHOOLS.

Library Studyhall



Studying after school at the Southwest Branch Library are:

(left to right) Timeshea Woodson and Abraham Evans, students at Jefferson Jr. High; Bernard Evans, a Bowen Elementary School student, and Derrick Zigler of Jefferson.

Holiday Spirit All Year

A third, newly published book of poetry by Margaret Oliver is now available at

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BOOK GROUP TO DISCUSS "IN LOVE AND TROUBLE" BY WALKER

The next chance to discuss a book with others at the Southwest Branch Library will be from 6 to 7 pm Wednesday, February 15. Patrons can sign up for the discussion when they check out the book at the library.

The first group discussion was on January 18, when Marita Golden's book "Long Distance Life," was the topic.

The series focuses on "Women's Lives, a multicultural perspective," and will be held the third Wednesday of each month. Future discussions will cover these books:

March 22 - "Prozac Nation" by Elizabeth Wurtzel


April 19 - "The Joys of Motherhood" by Buchi Emecheta

May 17 - "Red Azalea" by Anchee Min

June 21 - "Betsey Brown" by Ntozake Shange

July 19 - "Mama" by Terry McMillan

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Wallace Babington

No dramatic work in theater literature today is more truly American than Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night", the current production at Arena Stage. And yet the universality of its themes and subjects transcends boundaries and borders: family, home, compassion, dependency, responsibility. These subjects know no nationality. O'Neill has written an autobiographical play that reveals the innermost secrets, conflicts and weaknesses of his dysfunctional family. It is a daring and brave undertaking for a playwright to present his own private life in such a open, searing and touching manner. The play has no equal in American literature.

The Arena production is almost flawless. There is a marvelous balance to the drama that can only be achieved through exceptional direction, dramatic skills and dedication to ensemble acting. I have seen this play in four previous incarnations. None has achieved the balance and symmetry of this production. It is not uncommon for one of the characters to be emphasized in such a way that the whole play seems to focus on that one character. And this does damage to the intent of the play.

It would be hard to imagine a better cast. Tana Hicken is moving and heart-breaking as the mother. Casey Biggs has not done finer work at Arena than his interpretation of the older brother. Richard Kneeland, as James Tyrone, creates a character that I thought impossible to develop: this miserly, selfish, egotistical father/husband almost becomes a sympathetic, likable person. And the fact that Rainn Wilson could be the absolutely zany character in last season's Revenger Comedies and then portray Edmund with such depth and honesty speaks well for his acting skills.

This is a marvelous evening of theater that should not be missed. It is long: almost four hours. Ours is a day of sound bites and fifteen seconds of fame; sit-coms and TV commercials that simplify and falsify all aspects of life. But the things that are truly worthwhile require commitment and time. And Arena's "Long Day's Journey Into Night" is one of those things.

"Long Day's Journey Into Night" directed by Douglas Wager, at Arena Stage through February 12. Box Office 488-3300.

Happy Valentine's Day

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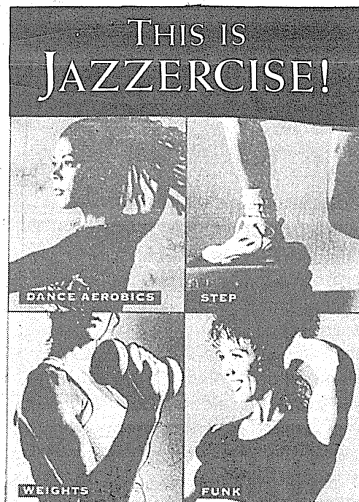
PROJECT SPIRIT

by Carole Belsoe

Riverside Baptist Church welcomed the "Project Spirit" after school program to their facilities with an installatin service on Sunday, November 13th.

The program, which was started by the Congress of National Black Churches and is currently sponsored by the church Association of Community Service, has been in the Southwest area for over four years providing free after school care that includes counseling, tutoring and other extra curricular activities for at-risk children.

Rev. Michael Bledsoe, pastor of Riverside considers the arrival of "Project Spirit" to be an answer to prayer. "This is not only an opportunity for us to provide care and support for these children, but they will also bring something we desperately need as a church: the insights and struggles of children" Bledsoe explained.



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Class Information: 202-363-4447

ST. MATTHEW'S HISTORICAL EVENTS

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, our neighborhood civic organization, offer neighborhood residents two programs with historical ingredients during tandem presentation at the church, 222 M Street SW, on February 26.

St. Matthew's Heritage Sunday begins with services at 11 am, followed by lunch featuring a variety of ethnic and regional food, including African, Creole, German, Italian, Thai, and southwestern cooking. The Tanzanian Choir will sing during services and then again during the luncheon. Other musical events during the luncheon include Barbershop Trio entertainment.

Pastor Barron Maberry noted that St. Matthew's Heritage Sunday results from successive events that reflect elements of the Congregations ethnic composition. An African Afternoon, two years ago, was followed by Latin Salsa Sunday last February.

"The good response to both events convinced our Fellowship Committee to devote a Sunday to all heritages represented at St. Matthew's" Dr. Maberry added.

"Members also note Mayor Barry's message about neighbors reaching out to neighbors and want to say 'Hello' to our neighbors in Southwest," Dr. Maberry added.

Musical Discussions

Sorab Modi is a music critic who writes about events in the Metropolitan Area.

He has been a resident of SW for over twelve years.

The Opera Season was fast approaching. He presented an idea to Borders Book and Music. Why not present Washingtonians with background and insight into the current season of Washington Opera. They liked the idea; so this music commentary program was started.

Sorab was joined by Peter Fay. He is the former head of the Performing Arts Library at the Kennedy Center. Currently, he is the music critic on WETA-TV's arts panel program, "Around Town" and he writes regularly for the *Washington Opera Magazine* and *WETA Magazine*.

On Thursday January 12 at 7:00 pm, the two explored Handel's opera *Semele*. The discussion was at Borders, 1801 K Street, NW.

WELCOME TO
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MASSES

SATURDAY EVE: 5:15 pm
SUNDAY: 8:00 am, 9:30, 10:45 (Spanish Mass)
12:15 and 5:15 pm
HOLYDAYS: Evening before: 5:30 pm; day of:
7:30 am, 8:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 and 5:30 pm
WEEKDAYS: 7:30 pm, 8:00, 8:20 and 12:10 p.m.
SATURDAY: 8:20 am and 12:10 pm

ANC Report

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D, which covers the near Southwest, was one of the casualties of last month's D.C. Council budget cuts.

The DC Council cut the budget for the city's 37 ANCs by \$600,000, which is slightly more than half their budget.

The ANC 2D area with a population of about 11,400 has received approximately \$22,000 a year. The Commission uses these funds for a part-time staff-person, an office in the basement of Westminster Church, and the usual communication costs, telephone and printing, etc. The six Commissioners who make up ANC 2D receive no pay.

Councilman Evans

First, the good news for the many Southwest residents who were concerned about the District's libraries. In spite of the difficult fiscal climate, the Council fortunately managed to prevent library closings with an eleventh-hour amendment to its budget work.

Though the library budget will still be reduced by \$1 million, the Council's action, which I strongly supported, added \$819,000 back to the library budget to eliminate the need for library closings.

Now for the not so good news. The Council was faced with a deficit that had been estimated to be as high as \$450 million in a total District budget of \$3.4 billion. This 13 percent deficit, one-sixth of the way into the fiscal year, presented an enormous challenge to the elected leadership of the District.

In a period of weeks, the Council implemented numerous cost-saving measures

With a Republican Congress and increasing pressure at the federal level to balance the budget, the District's work, which would be hard in any time, will be even more challenging in the next few years. Nonetheless, with inspired leadership and much hard work, the District can become an even better place to live.

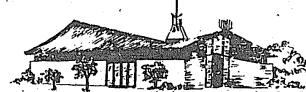
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TIPPER GORE RECEIVES STUDENTS FROM JEFFERSON JR.



Vice President Al Gore's wife Tipper Gore hosted two dozen Jefferson Jr. High students on a visit during the holiday season.

The students promoted recycling of beverage containers by stringing rows of colorful cans as decorations on the iron fences at the Vice President's mansion at Wisconsin Ave. and 34th St. NW.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMMUNITY

Riverside Condominium Paradise Found

by Jerry Blasenstein

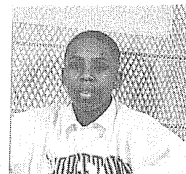
It's been a rather trying day at work today. Time to get out of here. Down the Metro escalator, onto the Green Line (eventually). Ding-dong. "The next station is...Waterfront". Back up the escalator. No Safeway today. About face, to M Street, and make a mad dash down 4th Street, wondering why that car passing by is doing 75 miles per hour, knowing full well it will have to slow right back down to a crawl, where 4th hairpins around into P Street, or end up splattered on the first available brick wall at Fort McNair! Finally, get to P Street itself, and, off to the right, that apartment complex now known as Riverside Condominium beckons.

This is probably a close enough scenario for many, allowing for a little poetic license, who call Riverside home. Whatever the variations, there is one common thread - coming to a little paradise that sits on that 'Sliver of Southwest' made famous a few months ago by the Washington Post. The Sliver, for those who missed that article, was noted for housing a racially, ethnically, and economically diverse community. Being in that Sliver is what makes Southwest living desirable, and living at Riverside makes it even more so.

The complex, located at 1425-35 Fourth Street, S.W., is comprised of two high rises, with about 280 units of varying sizes, a large underground garage, a good sized swimming pool, an unusually discreet entrance, and immaculately kept grounds with an abundance of flowers and trees. It was constructed in 1968, on the heels of the 'urban renewal-ization' of Southwest, and had previous incarnations as the Chalk House and Finley House. In 1980, it was converted to condominiums and became known as Riverside. It follows, pretty much, the standard condominium setup, with a Board of Directors, by-laws, monthly and annual meetings for the owners, and various committees. The similarity, however, seems to end here. Riverside is a diverse community that cares about the lives of its residents in many ways. The activities of the committees see to that. Depending on one's inclinations, there is a social committee for party planning, such as the Annual Christmas Party [a great success this year], and other social functions, a pool committee for planning out the swim season, an architecture committee for working with the building and grounds, a budget committee for, yes, the budget, and a good-neighbor committee, where one can go to have their apartment watched during vacations or for having errands run. There are others. The degree of involvement is strictly up to the individual and there is no pressure. In fact, Riverside has its own monthly newsletter, the 'Riverside Update', to keep residents abreast of developments.

All of this is wrapped up with a ribbon of solid, caring management and a staff of 14 dedicated employees, who keep the complex running smoothly. Readers of the Southwester have probably seen a number of articles pertaining to Riverside, spotlighting the Resident Manager, as well as some community activities, especially Project Harvest, a Thanksgiving food drive for the needy. The community also played host for a forum on security in the Southwest neighborhood, held a yard-sale to benefit the Southwest Community Scholarship Fund, and won a prestigious award for being a well-run and desirable community.

Well, it's been a very relaxing day...sitting on the balcony, watching the sunset scatter diamonds across the waters of the Channel...listening to the sounds of Hinton, Howard, Hartman, Horn and Harris soothe the soul...not worrying if the alarm clock works because you can always count on reveille blowing from across the walkway there...surveying all the scenes in that little Sliver from this little piece of paradise.



Community Service Program

by Christopher Taylor,
student at Jefferson J.H.S.

Ms. Sherre Washington is head of Jefferson Junior High School's Community Service Program. Ms. Washington was born and raised in Washington D.C. She is a special coordinator for Jefferson Junior High School. Her favorite hobbies are music, reading, ballet, swimming and before she came to Jefferson she was an avid ball player and a biker. She is a product of D.C. Public Schools and attended Southeastern University but did not finish. She has worked at several federal government agencies and before she came to Jefferson she worked for Ward 2 representative, R. David Hall. He was on the D.C. Board of Education for about 13 years. She liked it because she was independent and she made wonderful friends and used her own judgment, "he was good guy to work with."

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